

ASI Monthly Report for the CAC Meeting on May 13, 2014

To: LA County Commission on Disabilities

From: John B. Troost, 2nd Vice President

Subject: ASI Monthly Report for the CAC Meeting on May 13, 2014

I was not able to attend the Board of Directors Meeting held on Monday, April 28, 2014 due to personal reasons.

At the CAC (Access Services Citizens Advisory Committee) meeting, which was held last Tuesday, May 13th, which I did attend, the following items were discussed.

Agenda Item 1: There were two public comments about the same subject, which were both pertaining to shopping at COSTCO and returning home using Access. It seemed that both of the comments were regarding, driver reluctance in picking up riders that had too much in their baskets, not even allowing passengers to load their own groceries, so they could return home, leaving them in stranded in the parking lot. It was also noted that two or three years ago that riders had no difficulties, in shopping at big box stores but now riders are experiencing problems more and more.

Agenda Item 2: Mr. F. Scott Jewel spoke about the Budget for Fiscal year '14 and '15 and then presented the new TAP Card without the VISA Logo and larger print which was well received by everyone in the room. At that point, Mr. Jewell introduced Mr. Eric Hock who took over and discussed the card further, and had a mock up of the card which was passed around so that it could be seen by everyone in the room.

Last Friday I contacted Mr. Burns to see if he could bring them with him today to share with the Commission as well. I don't know if that will happen today or not because I was informed that the card was not ready for the public as it needed to have further approval by other committees, before receiving the Board's approval which will not be on the Agenda until; June, July, or possibly the August meeting, depending on the process. However, Mr. Burns may have a surprise for us, but don't get your hopes up, as I did make my wishes known.

Agenda Item 3: Mr. Hock, introduced a new program which is now being implemented by Access Services known as the 'Parents with Disabilities Program'. This program will allow any Access Rider to accompany their child to and from the child's school for a reduced fare of \$ 1.00 per rider, per trip, which includes the round trip for the parent, and then the repeat trip in the afternoon or anytime during the day if there is a need. Certain vans will be used for this service each day so that they will be available. So far this program only exists in the San Fernando Valley Region and only 5 families are participating at this point, this program is currently being supported by Federal Grant Funding. Practically everyone on the committee was interested in knowing why the San Fernando Valley region was chosen over other regions, in Los Angeles County. Most all the questions related to why the Southern Region (South Central LA or the 2nd District) is always left out, so I believe that Mr. Hock got a loud and clear message from everyone in attendance, that all areas need to be studied and treated equally.

The May Board Meeting was held on May 19th, so I haven't had time to digest that meeting yet, so it will be presented at the June meeting.